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Rural District Council.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S INTERIM REPORT, 1940

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Rural District of LIMEHURST

INTERIM REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1940.

and

THE REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1940.

Limehurst Rural District Council 1940-41.

Members of the Council: Parish.

Councillor J. COOPER, J.P. **Chairman** ..... Woodhouses.

,, **S. HOWARD, Vice-Chairman** ..... Waterloo

,, **F. BOSWORTH,** J.P. ..... Alt.

,, **T. OLLERENSHAW** ..... Waterloo.

,, **R. G. STAFFORD** ..... Littlemoss.

,, **E. COLLINGE** ..... Bardsley.

Officials:

A. BROWN ..... Clerk to the Council.

J. W. PICKUP, M.D., D.P.H., ... Medical Officer of Health.

W. DAWSON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., ... Sanitary Inspector.

A. FISHER ..... Surveyor.

A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A., ... Rating Officer.

H. E. TURNER, F.S.I., ... Valuation Officer (part time).

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector.

INTERIM REPORT

Council Offices,
200, Oldham Road, Waterloo,
Nr. Ashton-under-Lyne,
August 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE

Limehurst Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration an Interim Report, in place of the Annual Report, on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1940, according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health, on similar lines to that of last year.

The progress of the Health Services in the District continues to be limited on account of the War, particularly with regard to housing schemes of clearance and overcrowding. The Re-housing Scheme at Ney Street and Blucher Street, Waterloo, was completed in September.

The organisation, administration and maintenance of the A.R.P. Casualty Services for the District involves progressive and detailed attention.

I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the ladies who have attended the Child Welfare Centre and have voluntarily tendered such valuable assistance each week.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Dawson for his unremitting and continued help, particularly with regard to the A.R.P. Casualty Services.

To the Clerk, Surveyor and other Officials of the Council may I tender my thanks for their continued assistance and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servent,

J. W. PICKUP,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt	1,132·724	270	3,116	11
Bardsley.....	883·076	546	6,831	26
Littlemoss	703·802	204	2,985	11
Waterloo	341·139	1,233	14,574	55
Woodhouses ...	627·545	233	2,221	9
Totals ...	3,688·286	2,486	29,727	112

Population for 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead)..... 8,151

Population for 1940—7,560.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No specific outbreaks occurred and there were no deaths.

Six Scarlet Fever cases, six Diphtheria cases, two Pneumonia cases, one Erysipelas case, one case of measles and two observation cases were accommodated at the following Infectious Disease Hospitals :-

Oldham (Westhulme) .....12 cases
Hyde..... ..... 4 cases
Manchester (Monsall) .....1 case
Littleborough ....1 case

The Hospital to which the cases were sent provided the Ambulance in each of the above cases.

There has been no change from last year with regard to Hospital Accommodation and Ambulance facilities.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1940.
Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS												Total Deaths (the figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital. — Total Cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—55	65 and over			
Smallpox		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	9	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...
Diphtheria, including Membraneous Croup...	6	...	...	1	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia / Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	21	4	3	1	1	1	2	...	...	2	...	7	...	4	4	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis-Lethargica		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	...
Measles	79	6	8	5	11	17	29	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	21	4	4	3	3	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	140	14	15	10	17	22	40	7	1	3	2	8	1	4	18	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15								
15—20		1						
20—25		1						
25—35	1			1	1			
35—45		1		2				
45—55	1			1				
55—65		1				1		
65 and over	1							
	3	4	0	4	1	1	0	0
	7		4		2		0	

Proper notification, prior to death, was received in each case of death from tuberculosis.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district. Under the County Council Scheme children must apply for treatment to Royton. Detailed plans for the erection of a School Clinic in the Rural District were well advanced but have been postponed owing to the war.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is now held on Thursday afternoon each week.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The midwife allocated to the Rural District now resides in the district.

Her name and address is :-

Mrs. A. HARROP, S.C.M., S.R.N.,
5 Ney Street,
Tel. ASH. 2033. Waterloo.

SEWERAGE

The report of the Consulting Engineer on the question of sewerage in the Rural District and particularly with reference to the non-sewered parishes of Alt, Littlemoss and Woodhouses, has been considered by the County Council and the Rural District Council.

It is very unlikely that any of the recommendations will be put in effect during the period of the War.

SCAVENGING.

By resolution of the Council of 1st May, 1940, a scheme has been put into operation to deal effectively with the scavenging of the Parish of Alt.

BYE-LAWS.

Building Bye-laws under the Public Health Act, 1936, were submitted to the Ministry of Health and confirmed in August, 1939.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections, for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Number of Prosecutions (4)
Factories (with mechanical power)	28	...	...
Factories (without mechanical power)	22	...	...
Other premises under the Act... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises ...	...	...	...
Total	50	...	...

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Number of Defects: Remedied (3)	Number of Defects: Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of Prosecutions (5)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2)	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	..	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective	4	4	...	...
not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
Other offences ..... (Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937.)	...	...	...	...
Total.....	4	4	...	...

No returns in Outwork Section.

One major improvement carried out was the abolition of four insanitary privy closets at a factory in Bardsley, and the provision of a new sanitary annexe, containing 5 waterclosets, 3 washbasins and a urinal in one section, and 1 watercloset and a washbasin in the other section. Hot and cold water was laid on to the annexe.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress made during the year.

Essential Civil Defence work limits the time available for normal duties, but the more important sanitary duties receive constant attention.

Noteworthy improvements recorded during the year are the completion of the Council's rehousing scheme in September, and the rehousing of all people from condemned houses ; the decision to scavenge the Parish of Alt and the improvements made in the type of sanitary conveniences in Alt.

I would like to express my thanks to all Officials of the Council for their continued help and valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
W. DAWSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1940 (concerning 194 houses)	98
No. of same complied with during 1940 (concerning 164 houses)	78

NOTE.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.

No. of Statutory Notices served (for 1 house)	1
,, ,, ,, complied with	1
,, Legal Proceedings authorised	Nil.
,, ,, ,, taken	Nil

The Statutory Notice was served in respect of a nuisance.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the year 140

A tabulated statement is given on pages 5 and 6.

Number of premises disinfected (houses)..... 17

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

At a Special Meeting of the Council held on 1st May, 1940, a joint report prepared by the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, reviewing the whole question of scavenging in the Rural District, together with detail and costings of applying scavenging facilities to the Parish of Alt, was considered by the Council.

It was resolved that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1936 the Council undertake the following scavenging services in the Parish of Alt :-

1.—Removal of house refuse.

2.—The cleansing of earth closets, privies and ashpits.

3.—The cleansing of cesspools attached to, and receiving the drainage of W. Cs. from, dwelling houses only, subject to a suitable access road being provided for the Council vehicle to approach.

Dustbins and pails to be emptied every two weeks approximately ; privies and ashpits every two months approximately and the cesspools every twelve months approximately.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, &c.

A tabulated statement follows of the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes. During the year the following conversions have been carried out.

4 Privy closets converted to water closets.

1 Pail closet converted to a water closet.

1 Waste Water closet converted to a water closet.

8 Privy closets converted to pail closets.

136 Dustbins provided in lieu of ashpits, etc.

The following is a list of recorded improvements, renewals, &c.

12 Entirely new Water Closets provided.
145 Entirely new Dustbins provided.
47 Dustbins renewed.
4 Pail Closets abolished.
2 Midden Ashpits abolished.
1 Closet Cesspit abolished.
44 Dry Ashpits and ground pits abolished.
39 Closet Pails provided, including renewals and conversions.
4 existing closet buildings reconstructed or repaired.
2 premises where drains were entirely reconstructed.
5 premises where new branch drains were laid.
4 premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired.
32 drain blockages cleared.
10 new baths (including those in new houses).
10 new lavatory bowls (including those in new houses).
13 new sinks (including those in new houses).

For new houses, fresh water closets are installed where sewers or other satisfactory drainage exist, or can be provided. All new houses erected this year are provided with water closets. The closet accommodation for 1,913 houses is on the water carriage system.

A special effort was made to obtain, in the Parish of Alt, a system of sanitary conveniences which would allow of regular and efficient scavenging. Good results were obtained, in that 125 entirely new dustbins were provided in lieu of ashpits, small tips etc., and the number of privy closets was reduced to 24.

The number of dustbins to be emptied in the whole district is now 2,128 as against 171 in 1922.

With the decision to scavenge the Parish of Alt the Council now carry out the scavenging of the whole Rural District.

TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1940.

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits.	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt	66	22	200	190	6	11	13	13	8	1
Bardsley	372	206	27	458	4	5	2	2	25	4
Littlemoss	121	10	127	182	2	2	2	3	10	0
Waterloo	1047	268	3	1074	1	2	—	—	80	6
Woodhouses	30	1	233	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals	1636	507	590	2128	14	21	18	19	123	15

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There is no public slaughterhouse in the district. There are four private slaughterhouses, one in Bardsley and three in Waterloo.

On the 14th January private slaughtering ceased, all slaughtering being subject to Government control from this date. No Government slaughterhouse was established in Limehurst.

25 visits were made to slaughterhouses, the carcases and organs of 224 animals were inspected. 20 of these were cows, 24 bullocks and heifers, 175 sheep, 4 pigs and one calf.

9 condemnations were made. Eleven special notices of slaughter received attention.

Numerous visits were made to places where food is prepared. No legal proceedings were found necessary.

Two reports of wart disease in growing potatoes were investigated and samples submitted for examination. The disease was confirmed and dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Affected material was destroyed by burning.

DAIRIES, COWSHED AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 63 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 61 cowkeepers all of whom are on the register. The total number of cows kept is 1,000 approx.

In addition to the 61 cowkeepers who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are five resident dairymen and retail purveyors with registered premises who are not cowkeepers, but buy milk in bulk and then retail it from churns.

Finally, there are 56 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Limehurst District.

Fees for the sale of pasteurised milk in the District have been paid by four Dairy firms this year, and for "Tuberculin Tested" milk by one firm.

Five resident dairymen and cowkeepers are licenced by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited" milk. Three of these producers are also licenced for bottling.

Medlock Bank Farm, Littlemoss has ceased to exist as a milk farm and the occupier has obtained accommodation for his cows at a farm in Bardsley.

An application to keep milk cows was considered by the the Council. This was not agreed as the premises were entirely unsuitable.

Improvements during the year have been recorded as follows :-

Within Hall Farm, Woodhouses. A milking machine installed.

Diamond Hall Farm, Woodhouses. Water bowls fitted to all cow stalls (16) and a milking machine installed.

During the year four cases of tuberculosis in milk samples have been reported to the County Medical Officer to be dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Altogether 18 milk samples have been taken in the district at the instance of the Lancashire County Council. One sample was taken of School milk.

Four samples were in some degree not satisfactory with regard to bacterial count, B. coli or Methylene Blue test. These were all followed up and in two cases further samples taken. Both gave satisfactory results.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The total number of houses in the District at the end of 1940 is 2,486, mostly of the working class type. Average number of persons per house 3.04.

Number of new houses brought into the rate books during the year, 9.

Repairs have been recorded at existing houses during the year in 101 instances.

All new houses erected this year have freshwater closets, and water supplies direct from the public mains.

Nine new Council houses were completed and tenants installed during the year.

Eleven unfit houses were demolished during the year.

This completes the Council's present re-housing programme in connection with the slum clearance scheme.

The whole scheme comprised of 48 houses, built in four small estates :- Knott Lanes, Bardsley, 14 houses ; Oldham Road/Lees Street, Bardsley, 10 houses ; Lumb Lane, Littlemoss, 15 houses and Ney Street/Blucher Street, Waterloo 9 houses.

Altogether 60 houses were condemned and of these 55 have been demolished. All the houses concerned have been vacated.

No houses have been built by private enterprise during the year.

During the year two demolition orders were made, the houses were demolished and the tenants rehoused in Council houses.

OVERCROWDING.

Two cases of overcrowding have been abated by re-housing the tenants in Council houses. There is no other change to report.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The removal of the furniture and effects of four families to new Council houses from condemned houses was carried out by the H. C. N. van removal process.

No houses were dealt with for vermin during the year.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

During the year 59 visits were made to Shops in the district.

No action was necessary with regard to Offices.